CANADA MAP STAMP OF 1898

Canada SC#85 and SC#86 were issued December 7th, 1898, to commemorate a letter rate of 2 (two) pennies between all portions of the British Empire. An unofficial first Christmas stamp, it was issued December 25th. However, the larger post offices received supplies December 7th and began to disseminate stamps immediately . The stamp was printed in 3 (three) colors—red, blue green and lavender—by the electrotype process and 5 (five) steel engraved plates. Plate 4 (four) was never put into use, but imperf copies (proofs) are available in black and white and with light blue and deep blue color seas. The plates were each 100 stamps in a 10x10 format. Twenty million stamps were ordered. The manufacturer, American Bank Note Company of Ottawa, delivered 19,927,500.

Virtually all positions on the 5 (five) plates are plateable due to differences in re-touches, re-entries, flawed transfers from transfer rolls to paper, guide dots and arcs, all manifested in different areas of each position making them unique.

This exhibit attempts to plate these positions with used and unused single copies, blocks and covers with magnification of the unique areas.

*References:

1)British North America Philatelic Society, August 2009—Reprint of Definitive Plating Study by Kenneth A. Kershaw and Roger Boisclair
2)Frederick Tomlinson, the Canadian Map Stamp of 1898, First Edition June, 1960, Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain